Typeset by
Tambur
Translated by
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Cleaned by
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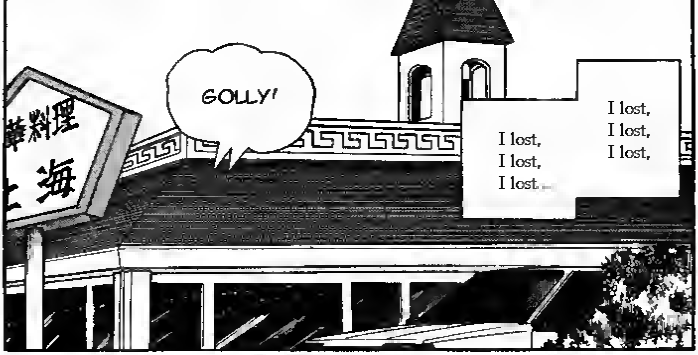
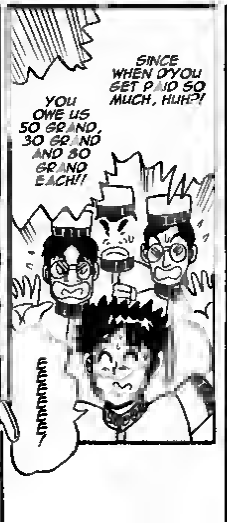
HEAT.7

The Modern-Day Ryouma

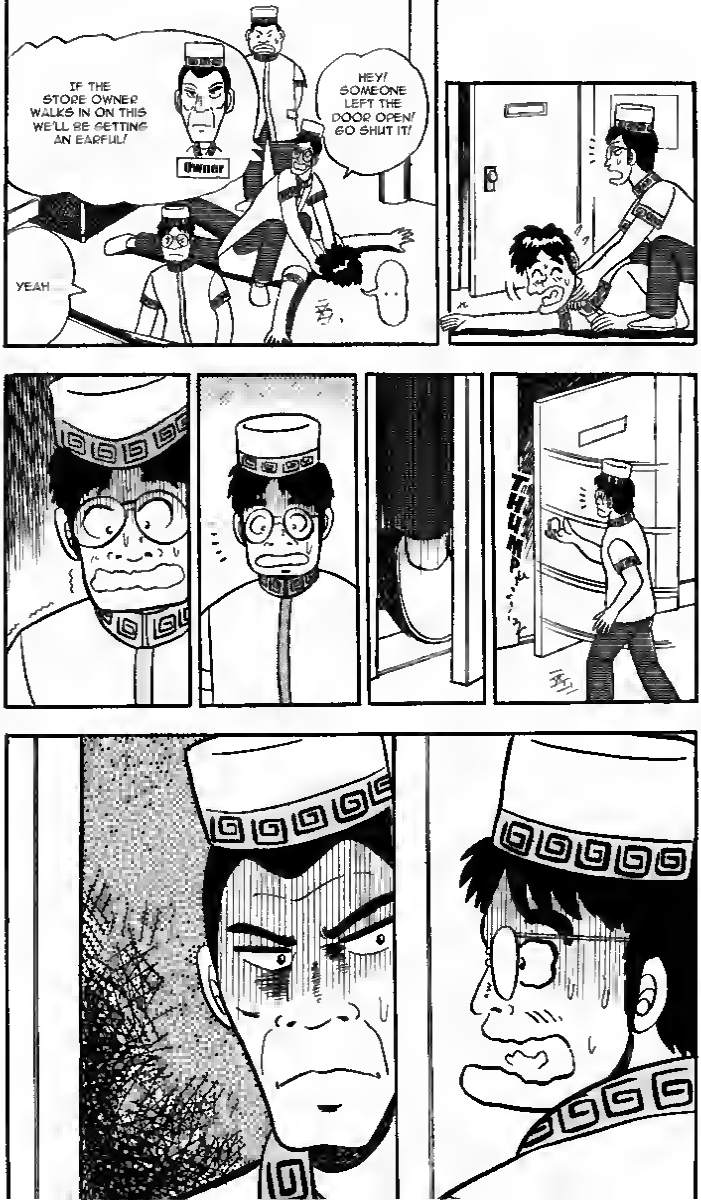

GOLLY!
I lost, I lost, I lost...
I lost, I lost, I lost,

CLATTER...
I LOOO OOOST...

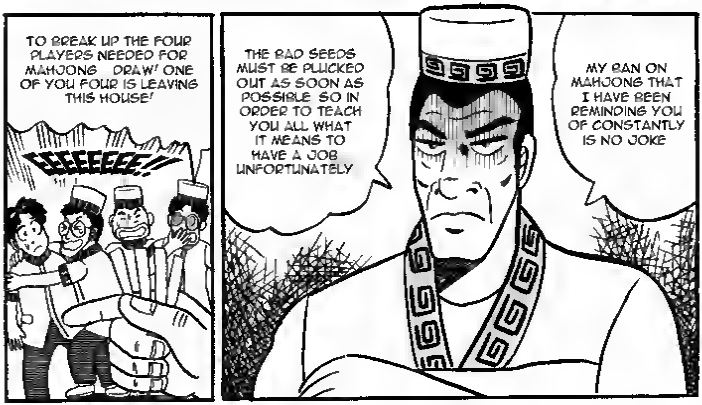
IF THE STORE OWNER FINDS OUT WE'RE DOING THIS, HE'S GONNA BE SO MAD HE MIGHT STRANGLE US!
AT LEAST PAY US BACK FOR TODAY, ALREADY!
JUST! LIKE! THIS!!
EEEE! EEEEE!!

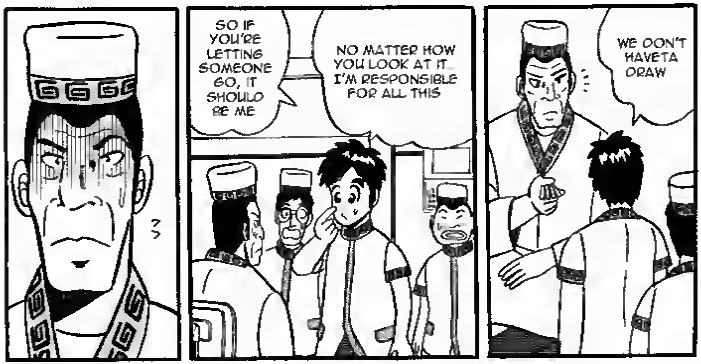

SINCE WHEN D'YOU GET PAID SO MUCH, HUH?!
YOU OWE US 50 GRAND, 30 GRAND AND 80 GRAND EACH!!
GWAHAHAHA!

UM. SOR-RYYYY...
I DO THIS EVERY TIME, BUT...
I'LL PAY YOU BACK NEXT PAYDAY AND I'LL NEVER DO THIS AGAIN...
HEY, HEY!!


IF THE STORE OWNER WALKS IN ON THIS WE'LL BE GETTING AN EARFUL!
Owner
HEY! SOMEONE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN! GO SHUT IT!
YEAH...
THUMP...

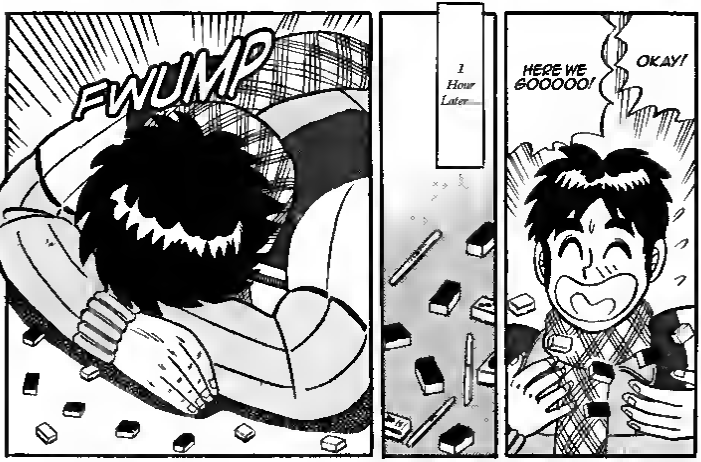
EYAAAAAUUUUUGHHH!!!!
中華料理
上海

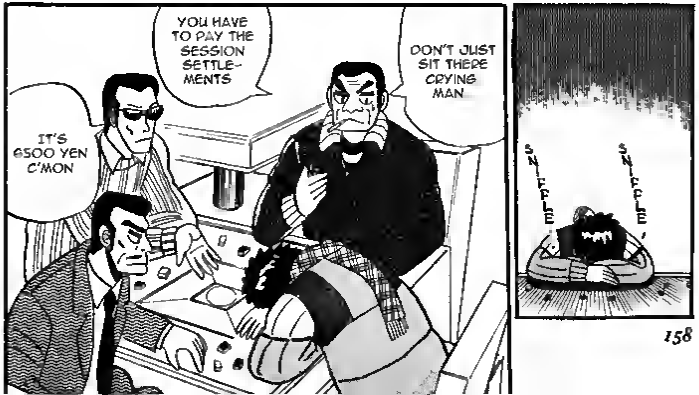

TO BREAK UP THE FOUR PLAYERS NEEDED FOR MAHJONG DRAW! ONE OF YOU FOUR IS LEAVING THIS HOUSE!
EEEEEEEE!!
THE BAD SEEDS MUST BE PLUCKED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO IN ORDER TO TEACH YOU ALL WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A JOB UNFORTUNATELY
MY BAN ON MAHJONG THAT I HAVE BEEN REMINDING YOU OF CONSTANTLY IS NO JOKE


?
SO IF YOU'RE LETTING SOMEONE GO, IT SHOULD BE ME
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT... I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS
WE DON'T HAVE TA DRAW

ST AAAAAARE...
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING, PEN!!
YOU GUYSS-SSS...
THEN LET'S JONG!!
WE'LL DO ANYTHING!
REALLY?
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED US TO DO, GO AHEAD AND SAY IT!
FWOOOO...
.....
SHUFFLE...
DUN-NO...
SO WHERE'S PEN GONNA GO, NOW?
CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE?
OBVIOUSLY THAT'S THE ONE THING WE CAN'T DO FOR YOU, PEN-CHAN...
PUSH
PUSH

麻雀
スポーツ
麻雀スポ
TEL042-741
待たずにできます
お一人様でもできます

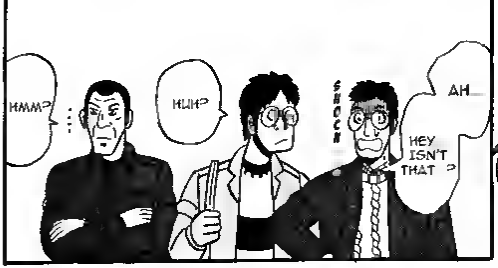

FWUMP
1 Hour Later...
HERE WE GOOOOO!
OKAY!


YOU HAVE TO PAY THE SESSION SETTLE-MENTS
DON'T JUST SIT THERE CRYING MAN
IT'S 6500 YEN C'MON
SNIFF SNIFF

ANY MONEY!
I DON'T HAVE...
HEY, HEY, BOSS!!
SHH!
OW-OW-OW!
C'MERE!
WHERE D' YOU LIVE? HUH?!
I GOT KICKED OUT, SO I DON'T HAVE A HOME...
YOU GOT A LOTTA NERVE, KID

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE AMOUNT...
BUT IF IT'S JUST 6500 YEN
IT'S FINE, LET HIM GET BEAT UP.
BUT IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING PEN'S GONNA--!
Pen's friend, Yamazaki
JUST LEAVING HIM BE IS FOR THE BEST.
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO LOOK DOWN ON SOMEONE THAT MUCH.
YOU FALL TO THE LOWEST OF THE LOW WE CAN'T LET PEN BECOME SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
IF YOU LOSE AND HAVE TO HAVE SOMEONE BAIL YOU OUT...
In the park
FUUOOOO...
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YA.
YOU OKAY THERE, SONNY?
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS.
IS HE ALIVE?

AH?
LOOKS LIKE HE'S COMIN' TO...
HAHAHA
THAT'S MY JACKET!
AH...
WE DON'T NEED THANKS
HEYYY, COME ON!
THANK YOU SO MUCH... SOMEONE LIKE ME SHOU-LDN'T
THAT'S WHY WE TOLD YA WE DON'T NEED THANKS!
WE SAVED YOU, SO WE TOOK THESE AS THANKS!!
NO YOU CAN'T!
CAN I...
AHHHHHHH!!!
MORE 'N' THAT, KID. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOR A GAME. WANNA PLAY?


HMM?
HUH?
SHOCK
AH...
HEY ISN'T THAT...?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
CLOMP CLOMP
PEN!!
AH...

YOU SURE LOSE A LOT...
I LOST PLAYING WITH YOU GUYS. THEN I LOST AT A MAHJONG PARLOR. THEN JUST NOW I LOST AGAINST THOSE GUYS!
I LOST AT MAH-JONG!

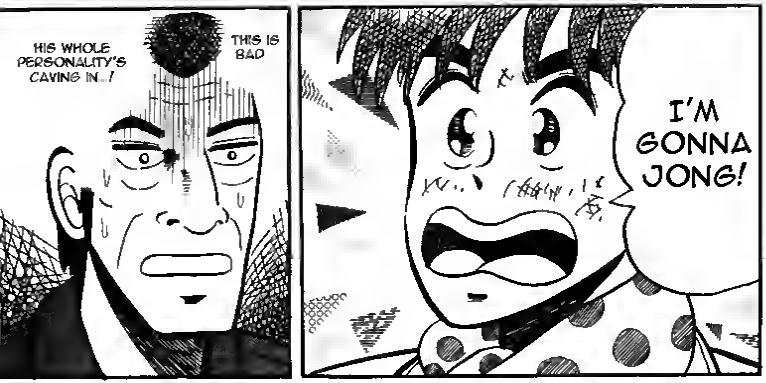
SHUFFLE...
1 Hour Later

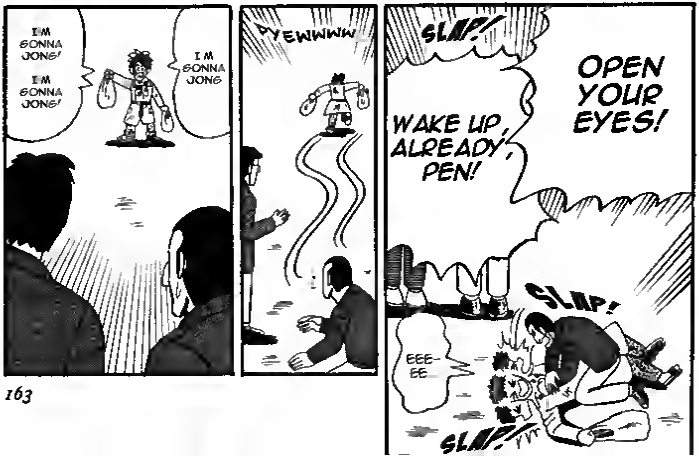
I'M GONNA GO PAY OFF MY DEBTS WITH THESE BOTTLES
THEN JOING WITH THEM AGAIN!
PWOOOOO...

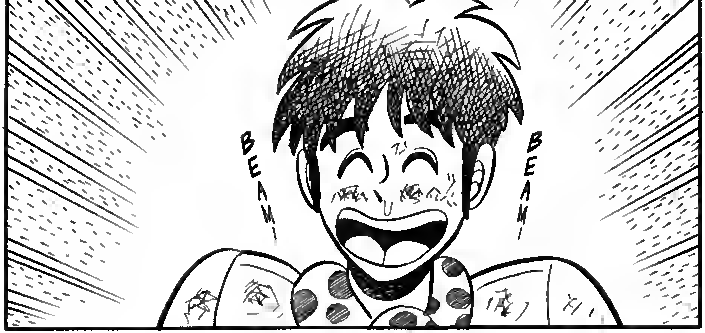
THEY SAID THAT INSTEAD OF MONEY I COULD JUST GO AND COLLECT BOTTLES FOR THEM!

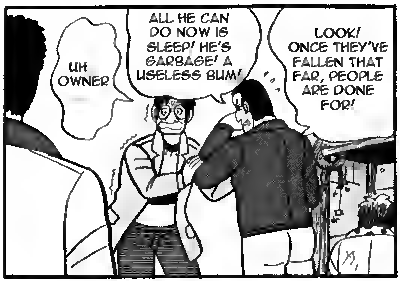
Uh-huhhhh...
UH-HUH!
I STUFFED IT WITH NEWSPAPER SO I'M NICE AND WARM!
LOOK!
UH-HUH!
BUT IT'S A BIT STRANGE FOR SOMEONE TO HAVE BEEN RUINED THIS MUCH IN JUST A COUPLE HOURS

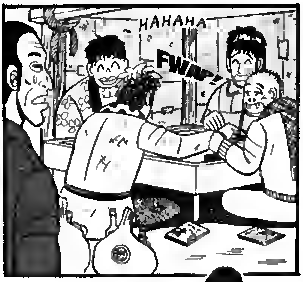
WHIP
WE WERE WRONG!
PEN! THAT'S ENOUGH..
WE WERE SO WRONG!!


HIS WHOLE PERSONALITY'S CAVING IN...!
THIS IS BAD
I'M GONNA JONG!


I'M GONNA JONG!
I'M GONNA JONG!
I'M GONNA JONG
PYEWWWW
SLAP!
OPEN YOUR EYES!
WAKE UP, ALREADY, PEN!
SLAP!
EEE-EE
SLAP!


BEAM!
BEAM!


UH OWNER
ALL HE CAN DO NOW IS SLEEP! HE'S GARBAGE! A USELESS BUM!
LOOK! ONCE THEY'VE FALLEN THAT FAR, PEOPLE ARE DONE FOR!


HAHAHA
FWIP!

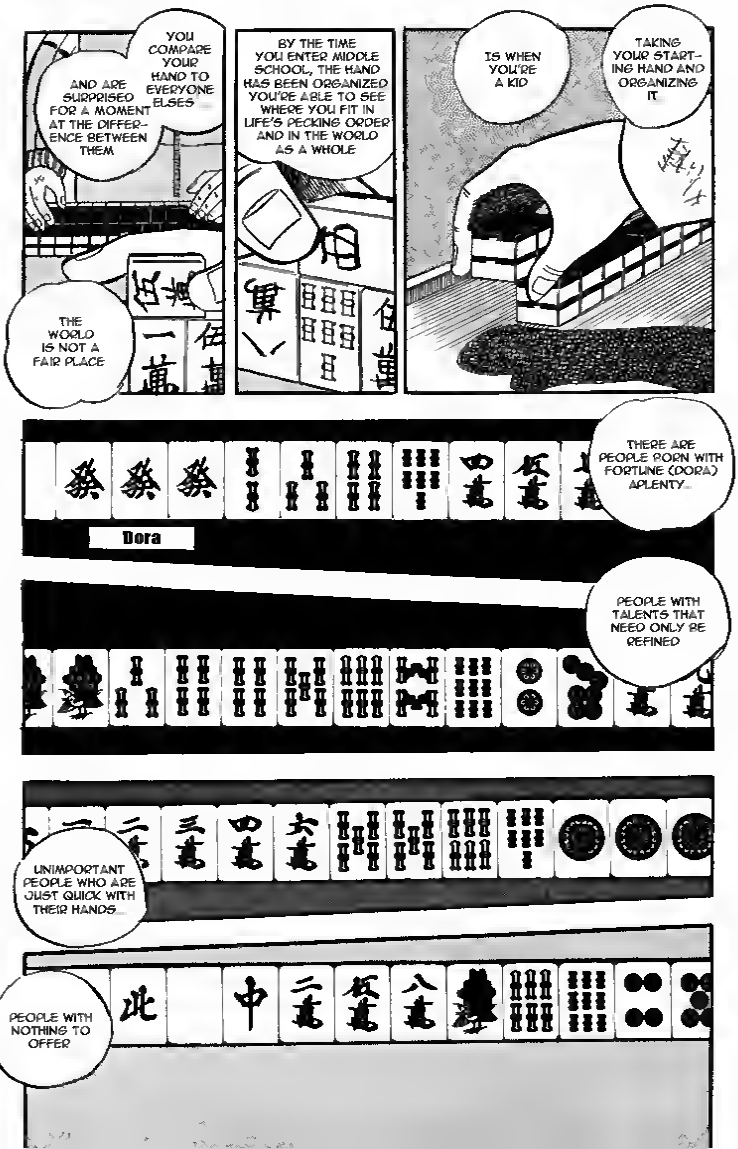
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR IT IF YOU DON'T GET BACK HERE!!

HEY, COME BACK HERE FOR A SECOND!
OKAY?
HEEEEEY!

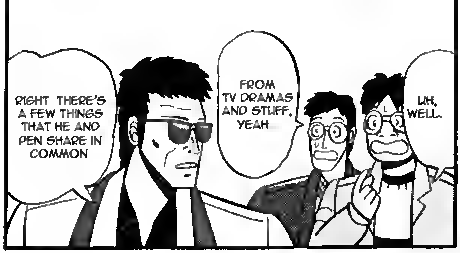
AAAAAUUUGH!!
AH

I WON'T CAUSE ANY HARM TO FRIENDS OF PEN'S
DON'T WORRY!
HAHN
HAHN
HUFF
YES, SIR!
HRK!
MR STORE OWNER
I'M HIS BEST FRIEND.. HIS SUPER BEST FRIEND!! I WANNA MARRY THE GUY, WE'RE SO CLOSE!
I'M HIS FRIEND!
LISTEN TO MY POINT OF VIEW A BIT?
WHY DON'T YOU...
THERE IS SOME TRUTH BEHIND WHAT YOU SAY, BUT...

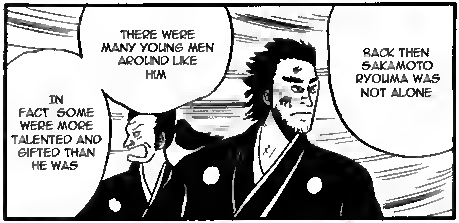
I THINK THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO UNDER-STAND IT
WELL... I'LL EXPLAIN AS WE WATCH HIM PLAY.
I MAY BE MAKING A BIT TOO MUCH OF HIM, BUT...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WHAAAA?!
HAVE YOU EVER BEFORE?
A LITTLE WHEN I WAS IN COLL-EGE...
WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD!
MR. STORE OWNER, DO YOU PLAY MAHJONG?
YOU CAN THINK OF IT IN TERMS OF A SINGLE ROUND...
IS SIMILAR TO LIFE IN A LOT OF WAYS
THAT THE GAME OF MAH-JONG
AND WHEN I DO, I OFTEN THINK...
I LIKE IT I PLAY FROM TIME TO TIME


THE WORLD IS NOT A FAIR PLACE
AND ARE SURPRISED FOR A MOMENT AT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM
YOU COMPARE YOUR HAND TO EVERYONE ELSES...
BY THE TIME YOU ENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE HAND HAS BEEN ORGANIZED YOU'RE ABLE TO SEE WHERE YOU FIT IN LIFE'S PECKING ORDER AND IN THE WORLD AS A WHOLE
IS WHEN YOU'RE A KID
TAKING YOUR STARTING HAND AND ORGANIZING IT
Dora
THERE ARE PEOPLE BORN WITH FORTUNE (DORA) APLENTY...
PEOPLE WITH TALENTS THAT NEED ONLY BE REFINED
UNIMPORTANT PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST QUICK WITH THEIR HANDS...
PEOPLE WITH NOTHING TO OFFER

THE STARTING HAND OF PEN'S LIFE WASN'T MUCH BETTER
YES... IT WAS JUST LIKE THIS KIND OF HAND
COMPLETELY ORDINARY HANDS THAT MIGHT MAKE YOU DISAPPOINTED
BUT, WELL, FOR THE MOST PART, THE STARTING HANDS ARE BORING
FOR EVERY-THING YOU GET
TIME MARCHES ON, AND YOUR LIFE BEGINS WHETHER YOU'RE READY OR NOT
BUT NO MATTER HOW FED UP WITH IT YOU GET
YOU HAVE TO LOSE SOMETHING LIFE CONTINUES IN THAT WAY
PEN BELIEVES IN THAT SINCERELY
DOESN'T MEAN EVERYTHING IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE IS GONNA BE ORDINARY
BUT JUST BECAUSE YOUR STARTING HAND IS ORDINARY...

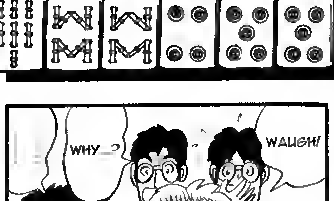


(T/N Sakamoto Ryouma was a prominent figure who lived during the end of the Edo Period of Japan that worked to overthrow the Tokugawa Shogunate. One of his greatest accomplishments was uniting the Choushuu and Satsuma provinces, long hostile towards each other, against the Shogun.)

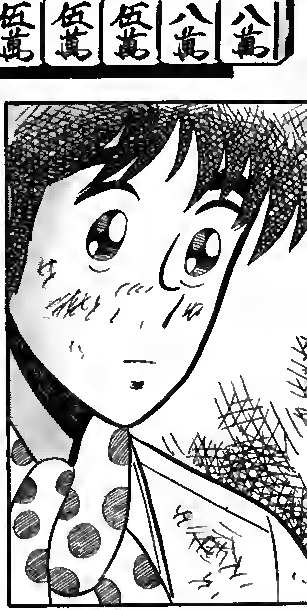

THERE WERE MANY YOUNG MEN AROUND LIKE HIM
IN FACT SOME WERE MORE TALENTED AND GIFTED THAN HE WAS
BACK THEN SAKAMOTO RYOUMA WAS NOT ALONE

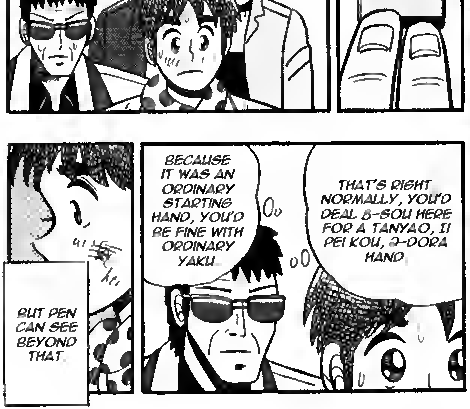
R-RIGHT!!!
DID YOU HEAR ME?! NONE OF YOU COULD EVEN DREAM OF DOING THAT!

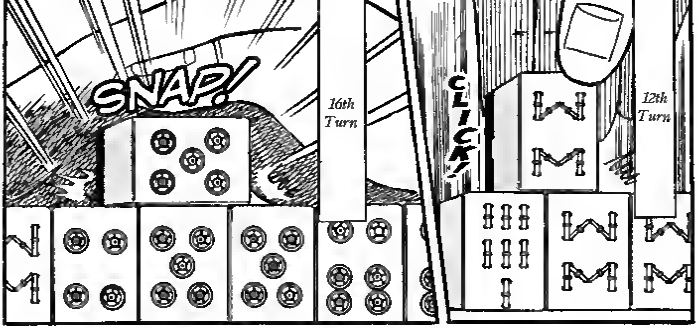
9th Turn: Tenpai
SNAP


WHY...?
WAUGH!

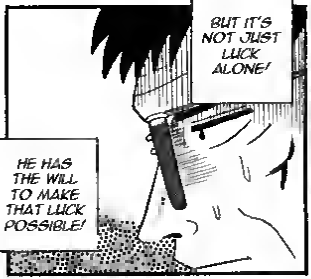
WHAP!




BUT PEN CAN SEE BEYOND THAT.
BECAUSE IT WAS AN ORDINARY STARTING HAND, YOU'D BE FINE WITH ORDINARY YAKU.
THAT'S RIGHT. NORMALLY, YOU'D DEAL 8-SOU HERE FOR A TANYAO, II PEI KOU, 2-DORA HAND.



Teopai - Sou Ankou, Toi Toi - A Tsumo would be Suu Ankou

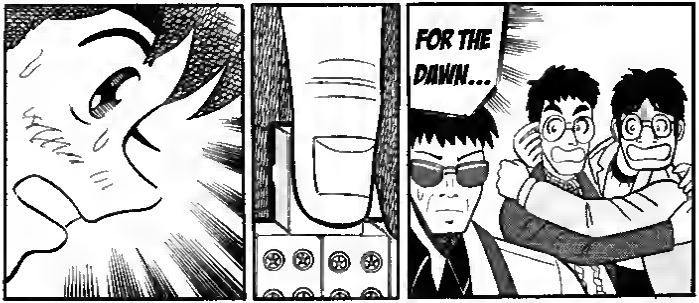


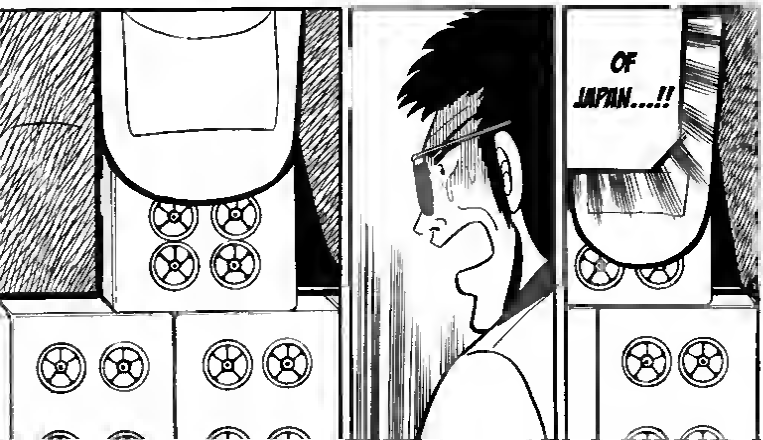
THERE'S JUST 1 DRAW LEFT UNTIL IT'S OVER, AND SINCE THE DORA, 6-PIN WON'T BE COMING OUT NOW...
THE 8-MAN IS DEAD, SO JUST THE 6-PIN IS LEFT...
WHISPER WHISPER

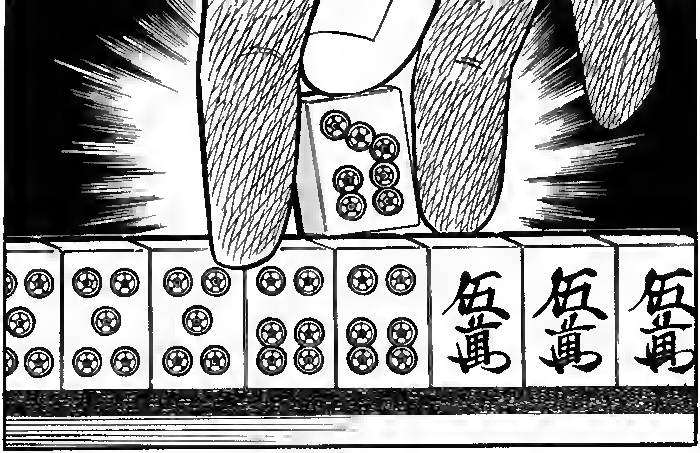
HIS DREAMS MADE REALITY... HE HAS THE DETERMINATION TO SEE WHAT CAN BE POSSIBLE!

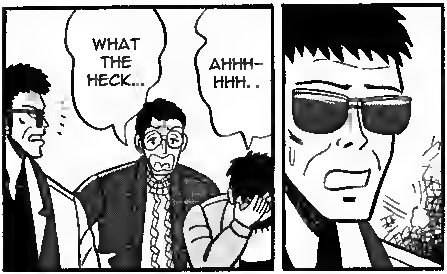
THERE IT IS!! THERE IT IS!!!
EEEEEEEEE!!
WHAP!
THE HECK IS HE THINK-ING?!
STOMP STAMP STOMP
WAUGH! MANNN
YUP.
IS IT OKAY IF I TAKE MY DRAW, NOW?
YEAUUUUUGHHHH!!
Staaaaaaare...
HE'S BETTING IT ALL ON A SINGLE DRAW!
HE COULDN'T OVERTHROW THE SHOGU-NATE!
IF HE WASN'T ABLE TO SEE THIS, HE COULDN'T BE LIKE RYOUMA
THAT'S RIGHT

GO! BRING FORTH THE MEIJI RESTO-RATION!


FOR THE DAWN...


OF JAPAN...!!

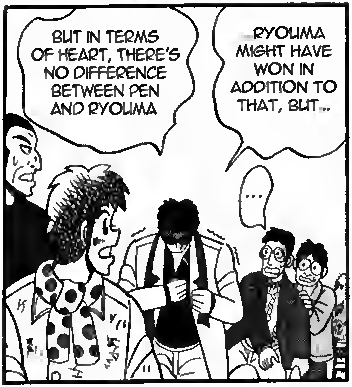

伍萬
伍萬
伍萬


WHAT THE HECK...
AHHH-HHH..

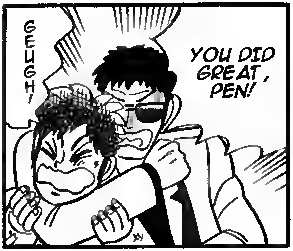
WAAAAAUGH!
CRASH
CRASH
ANYANYANYANYA...

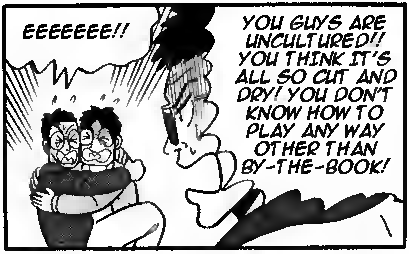
NOT "WHAT THE HECK"!!

CLONK!

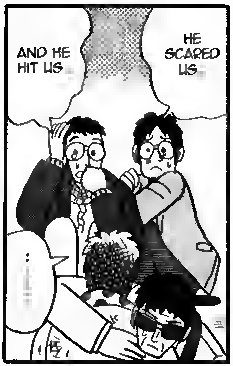

BUT IN TERMS OF HEART, THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEN AND RYOUMA
RYOUMA MIGHT HAVE WON IN ADDITION TO THAT, BUT...
...

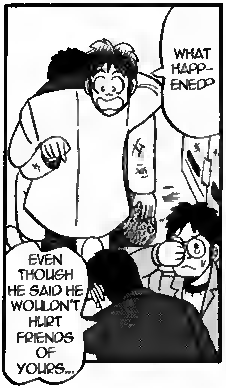
THAT MUCH IS PRICE-LESS!!
ANYONE WHO SAW THAT WOULD SEE THAT PEN COMMITTED TO PLAYING HIS OWN WAY!!


SEUGH!
YOU DID GREAT, PEN!


EEEEEEE!!
YOU GUYS ARE UNCULTURED!! YOU THINK IT'S ALL SO CUT AND DRY! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY ANY WAY OTHER THAN BY-THE-BOOK!

BEFORE WE KNEW IT, HE WAS ALL THE WAY IN THE MEIJI RESTORATION...
THIS GUY STARTED TALKING PRETTY BIG, DION'T HE.


AND HE HIT US.
HE SCARED US.


WHAT HAPP-ENED?
EVEN THOUGH HE SAID HE WOULDN'T HURT FRIENDS OF YOURS...

HUH?
DON'T BE MODEST!
HE'S SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS SPEAKS HIS MIND NO MATTER WHAT IT IS...
OH MAN WELL...
AND HE WAS CALLING YOU SAKAMOTO RYOUMA...
AREN'T YOU GONNA LISTEN TO ME?!
HEY, HEY!! WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
PEN!
YOU'VE GOT THE SELF-AWARENESS OF A MODERN-DAY RYOUMA!
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
DON'T GET WORKED UP...
WHAT SELF-AWARENESS
And so...
HM MMM MMM
Sakamoto Ryouma once again went off to gather bottles.